

REMARKS

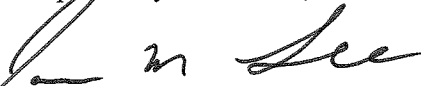
In accordance with M.P.E.P. §41.33(b)(2), which states that, “[a]mendments filed on or after the date of filing a brief pursuant to §41.37 may be admitted . . . [t]o rewrite dependent claims into independent form,” claim 4 has been amended into independent form. Applicants have amended claim 4 in response to the Examiner’s statement on page 2, section 3 of the Examiner’s Answer:

After review Appellants’ argument, Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendment be entered before the above-referenced application is forwarded to the Appeal Board. Further, Applicants assert that amended claim 4 recites allowable subject matter and should be allowed; therefore, claim 4 should no longer be on appeal.

Apart from this amendment, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit a Reply Brief in response to the Examiner’s Answer.

Respectfully submitted,



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